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Honoring Admiral Eric T. Olson ; The Hon. Kathy Castor of Florida in the House of Representatives

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HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California State referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Over the years, what is now the League of Women Voters of Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, as well as its sister leagues in Oakland, Piedmont, and the surrounding Bay Area, have worked tirelessly to advocate, educate, and champion citizens' informed and active participation in government and civic affairs.

An expansive and well-organized network of committed chapters, over 4,000 members in 21 local Leagues comprise the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, LWVBA, which took shape in 1959. On a national scale, the League of Women Voters of the United States, LWVUS, was founded during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just six months before the 19th Amendment was ratified. Thus, after a 72-year struggle, the U.S. Constitution finally reflected what women in the Bay Area and California had fought to achieve a decade earlier.

As members of the League of Women Voters, you are part of a magnificent legacy. Additionally, you have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneers and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging our community toward civic engagement.

Moreover, the League has flexed its power in shaping public policy through the strength of its grassroots organization and by maintaining its important stance of non-partisanship. For example, the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville chapter has worked extensively on advocating for fair housing and the promotion of social resources, including mental health, education, juvenile justice, and senior services. Likewise, the Oakland chapter has been a major advocate for ranked choice voting, quality education, and accessible housing. And, the Piedmont chapter holds positions in the areas of social policy, diversity, and natural resources, to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the League of Women Voters' local, State, and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of protecting the rights of voters, promoting sound policy, and creating a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING ADMIRAL ERIC T.
OLSON**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the inspirational leadership of ADM Eric T. Olson. Admiral Olson's service is worthy of recognition by the entire Tampa community, the United States Armed Services and every citizen of our great Nation.

A native of Tacoma, Wash., Olson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1973 and qualified as a Naval Special Warfare, SEAL, officer in 1974. He has served operationally in an Underwater Demolition Team, SEAL Team, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team, Special Boat Squadron, and at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He has commanded at every level.

Olson has participated in several conflicts and contingency operations, and has served as a SEAL instructor, strategy and tactics development officer and joint special operations staff officer. His overseas assignments include service as a United Nations military observer in Israel and Egypt, and as Navy Programs officer in Tunisia. He served on the Navy staff as assistant deputy chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy, and Operations).

Olson earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School and studied at the Defense Language Institute. He is a Joint Specialty officer and Political-Military Affairs sub-specialist with emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and Silver Star.

Admiral Olson became the first Navy SEAL to take the helm at Special Operations Command. It is only befitting that such a decorated and committed SEAL played an integral role in the successful raid on the Abbottabad compound that ended the search for Osama bin Laden. In addition to being the first three- and four-star Navy SEAL, Admiral Olson is currently the Bull Frog, the longest serving Navy SEAL still on duty. At four-star flag rank, Olson is the highest ranking Navy SEAL to hold the Bull Frog title.

The Tampa community and MacDill Air Force Base are proud to recognize Admiral Olson for his outstanding career and his many significant contributions to the Navy and our country. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Nation's Armed Services.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JESSE E. COOLEY, JR.**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jesse E. Cooley, Jr., who passed away on July 20, 2011 at the age of 79. He will be remembered for his savvy business sense, impressive musical abilities, and his great service to Central Valley families.

Jesse E. Cooley, Jr. was born on November 2, 1931 in Fresno, California. He attended Edi-

son High School where he was class president, played on the football team, ran for the track and field team, sang as a member of the Boys Glee Club, and played as lead drummer for the school band.

Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Cooley embraced his passion for music. He found work playing as a member of the Cal Tjader jazz band, which served as the beginning of his music career. His talent provided him the opportunity to play with jazz legends including Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, and Jack Teagarden.

In addition to having an impressive musical repertoire, Mr. Cooley was also a proud and respected businessman. Mr. Cooley's father, Jesse E. Cooley, Sr., opened the first Black-owned mortuary in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1953, Mr. Cooley followed in his father's footsteps when he teamed up with his business partner, Andrew Riolo, and opened the first Black-owned mortuary in Solano County, California. Three years later, Mr. Cooley returned to Fresno and immersed himself in the family business. In 1959, Mr. Cooley and his father opened the second branch of their business in Bakersfield, California to serve the residents of the southern Central Valley. The family business expanded north in 1971 when they opened a third location in Stockton, California.

As a member of the San Joaquin Valley business community for more than 50 years, Mr. Cooley was able to help thousands of individuals during times of great sadness. The great amount of trust Central Valley families placed in Mr. Cooley and his business is exemplified by the 10,000 services he hosted; most notably, the family of civil rights activist César E. Chávez and the family of Major General Vang Pao.

Whether he was playing music for his family and friends, or serving our community, Mr. Cooley will be remembered as a man filled with compassion and joy. He was preceded in death by his son, Jesse E. Cooley III. He is survived by his wife Barbara Taylor-Cooley; sons, Stephen R. Cooley, David A. Cooley, Phillip M. Cooley, and Corey D. Cooley; his daughters, Lisa C. Oliver and Christie M. Cooley; his sister Dorythea Cooley; and numerous friends and community members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jesse E. Cooley, Jr., an honorable and respected man with a commitment to bringing peace and comfort to families during their most difficult time. May his legacy continue to live on in our community and in the lives of those he touched.

HONORING THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF VASA PARK**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vasa Park, located in the Township of Mount Olive, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Vasa Park, established in 1929, was originally created to serve as a retirement community for Scandinavian immigrants in the Morris County area. However, as time passed and the community grew, it became a vacation spot for many of those same Scandinavian immigrants and their families. Today, ancestors

of the original founders still come with their families to vacation every summer, staying in one of the many cabins dispersed throughout the park.

In the summer, the park offers 31 cabins for rent, a Cultural Center for social events and a large swimming pool for its Scandinavian members. Families descending from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden make up the over 1,000 park membership. The park itself is one of 12 New Jersey parks that is within the Vasa Order of America. The Order is an American-Scandinavian fraternal society that was established as a way for Scandinavian peoples in the United States and Canada to meet each other and share a common heritage.

In addition to providing a vacation spot for Scandinavian immigrants and their families, the park hosts an annual Scandinavian Festival every year. This year will mark its 27th year. The festival features live Scandinavian music, dancing, children's activities, and medieval games. It is a fun way for members to not only get to know one another, but also to celebrate their rich Scandinavian heritage. The surrounding community is also invited to participate in the activities.

For the last 75 years, Vasa Park has upheld the tight knit Scandinavian presence that is so important to the citizens of Mount Olive. The Mount Olive community as a whole is proud to call Vasa Park their own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vasa Park for 75 years of upholding Scandinavian tradition in Morris County, New Jersey.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY TRINITY HUNGARIAN CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise today to honor the Holy Trinity Hungarian Church in East Chicago, Indiana, as the parish celebrates its 105th anniversary. On Saturday, September 24, 2011, a celebrated Mass will take place at Holy Trinity, which will be followed by a celebratory banquet to recognize this extraordinary occasion.

Around the turn of the 20th century, the Hungarian community in East Chicago, Indiana, with its deep religious traditions, embarked on a venture to start a church of its own. With this goal in mind, on July 4, 1904, a group of community members met in the home of Stephen Farkas on Alexander Avenue to discuss ideas for what would later become the Holy Trinity Hungarian Church. The cornerstone was laid for the first church building on November 11, 1906, followed by its dedication on the Feast of the Holy Trinity in 1907. The parish's first resident pastor, Father Oscar Szilagyi, arrived on Christmas Eve in 1907. Although regulations of the Religious Order prevented Father Szilagyi from remaining at the church for a longer period of time, he has the distinction of performing Holy Trinity's first marriage, baptism, and funeral.

Sadly, this building, as well as a second church, were lost to fires, but through the faith, hard work, and dedication of its leaders and congregation, the present church was constructed and was dedicated on May 22, 1921. After the church was rebuilt, the parish continued to grow. In 1922, Holy Trinity opened the doors to a new school, providing a much needed service for young people in the community. By 1927, several organizations had also formed, including: the Holy Rosary Circle, Altar Society, Holy Name Society, Knights of Holy Trinity, Children of Mary, and Young Ladies Sodality.

Although Holy Trinity has faced its share of struggles, the collective faith of the clergy and parishioners, and their commitment to the church, has allowed the parish to reach many milestones during its 105-year history. In February of 1957, the Diocese of Gary was established, and Holy Trinity joined other area Catholic parishes in welcoming its first bishop, the Most Reverend Andrew G. Grutka. On July 10, 2004, Holy Trinity experienced the most prestigious event in its history when the church was honored with a visit from Peter Cardinal Erdo, Primate of Hungary.

Another extraordinary event took place on May 1, 2005, when the present pastor, Father Alphonse Skerl, celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. For the past forty years, Father Skerl has served the parishioners of Holy Trinity. Under the leadership of Father Skerl, and because of the dedication of the parish members, 2011 has been a year of two more historic milestones, the 90th anniversary of the present church and the 105th anniversary of the parish.

Mr. Speaker, Holy Trinity Hungarian Church offers an invaluable service to its parishioners and community, providing numerous opportunities for all to join together to experience its rich heritage. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the clergy and congregation Holy Trinity Hungarian Church as they celebrate their 105th Anniversary. Throughout the years, these fine individuals have provided spiritual guidance to their community while honoring and preserving their faith and the traditions of the Hungarian people. Their devotion is worthy of our deepest admiration, and I am proud to serve as their Representative in Washington, DC.

CELEBRATING FORMER MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER EMILE BEAULIEU'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on April 2, 2011 Emile Beaulieu will celebrate with his family and friends his 80th birthday. Mr. Beaulieu is a selfless public servant having served our nation, state, and local communities in various capacities for many years.

Known as an honest, warm, and generous man, Mr. Beaulieu's public service includes twenty years of service in the Air Force Reserve, two terms as Mayor of the City of Manchester, eight years serving as Welfare

Commissioner, past President of the Easter Seals Board, past president of Big Brother Big Sisters of Greater Manchester, and former member of the Jaycees.

Mr. Beaulieu is a long-standing advocate and leader of conservative values and principles. He has served in numerous leadership capacities in the New Hampshire Republican Party and continues to remain active in various political campaigns. However, Mr. Beaulieu's greatest joy and accomplishment is as a loving husband and father of six children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

This is a great day for Mr. Beaulieu, his wife Laurette, and his family and friends. I wish him the very best on his 80th birthday. This is truly a very joyous occasion.

CELEBRATING ARTS CLAYTON'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Arts Clayton's 25th Anniversary. Since its opening in 1986, Arts Clayton has provided access to art and art education for my constituents in the 13th District of Georgia.

In 1999 Arts Clayton used funding from a HUD Community Development Block Grant to create a Mobile ArtVan to bring art directly to children from low-income families. This initiative is especially important in today's economic climate as school budgets continue to tighten.

In 2000 Arts Clayton extended their reach into the community by opening the Arts Clayton Gallery. This Gallery places a high premium on local art—accepting only Georgia artists. Those desiring to display their art must first meet with the Curators Committee to prove the quality and uniqueness of their work.

In addition to the artwork that is displayed year-round, the Arts Clayton Gallery also hosts various showcases throughout the year including a juried Fine Arts show in February and a juried Photography show in October. I am particularly thankful that the Gallery hosts the annual Congressional Art Competition for my district, the winners of which are displayed here in Washington, D.C.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication Arts Clayton displayed when assisting my wife find art and jewelry for the First Lady's Luncheon. With their help, Alfredia found and selected a local Georgian artist to custom design jewelry for attendees and another artist who donated a beautiful quilt to then First Lady Laura Bush.

It is my greatest hope that Arts Clayton will continue to serve our community for many more years to come. Art is vital to a strong, vibrant society, and Arts Clayton has played a pivotal role bringing art into Clayton County, my Congressional District and the Greater Metro Atlanta area.